

and their interests, and I should be recreant to the high trust they have reposed in me did I not to the utmost of my ability, however humble it may be, do what I can to stem the torrent that is now overrunning our country and State. It is for them, and in their behalf, as well as representing my own views and sentiments, that I desire to place myself upon record here, and give an evidence of the faith that is in me which will not be disputed hereafter.

It is proposed to emancipate the slaves of Maryland, and forever hereafter abolish the legal status of slavery within the limits of this State. In one short sentence, at one dash of the pen, suddenly, boldly, absolutely, without any previous preparation, without any qualification, without any kind of compensation, forcibly if necessary, by the strong arm of the law, and in the name of the government that was instituted for the security and protection of the lives and property of the citizens of the State and of the country—to strike from the hands of the rightful owners all lawful claim to forty million dollars' worth of property. There is no parallel to this in all the annals of the past; certainly there is none in the history of our own country.

I know that emancipation has been adopted in portions of our own country, and in other countries during the past century. But never has it been attempted or accomplished in our own, or in any other country, in the violent, unjust, and atrocious manner in which it is now proposed to be accomplished in the State of Maryland. When it was accomplished in the Northern States of our republic, it was done in times of peace, when there was no terrible war agitating our country from its centre to its circumference, threatening its dissolution, and convulsing interests of every kind throughout the land. It was effected gradually, and with compensation in every case, without a solitary exception. It was effected at a time when those who were not willing to suffer loss by the execution of the law could dispose of their property in an advantageous market; and those who were disposed to do so did so and pocketed the proceeds.

When the British Government abolished slavery in their West Indian dependencies, did they do it suddenly? Did they violently strike from the hands of the lawful owners this property without any compensation? No, sir; they made the abolition of slavery both gradual and compensated. The British Parliament appropriated £20,000,000 sterling, or \$100,000,000, to remunerate the owners of slaves, and to compensate them for the loss of their property. And in addition to that there were five years of apprenticeship before emancipation went into full operation.

I do not know what the French Government did. I know not if they emancipated

without compensation. If they did so "it was a grievous fault, and grievously have they answered it," as the destruction, and devastation, and waste, and poverty of all those islands so manifestly testify.

Slavery exists to-day in the State of Maryland. It is not for us to go back and inquire into or argue, concerning the whys and wherefores of it. It was no act of ours or of our immediate ancestors, that imposed the institution upon us. The history of the past fully teaches us that people outside of the limits of the then colony of Maryland, had more to do with the introduction of slavery into Maryland, than the people of the colony itself. It is a fact upon the pages of history, as plain as day-light, that New England and Old England were the influences and the power that introduced this institution, now so much abused, into the Southern section of our country. Influenced by the greed of gain consequent upon the traffic which they now term so atrocious, they forced the institution upon the South, and now their descendants, from greed of power and place, and personal aggrandizement, wage a war of extermination upon the institution.

This institution is now established in our midst. There are between 80,000 and 90,000 slaves in Maryland. We have to recognize as a fact, we have to treat as a fact—the question is forced upon us, whether we are willing to consider it or not—whether, at the bidding of the people or not, the question is brought here forcibly upon us, and we have to dispose of it; we have no election in the matter; we have to do something, and now what shall we do? I am opposed to emancipation upon principle, upon broad principle, and I am opposed to it as being in its effects contrary to the interests of both races.

What are the objections to the institution of slavery? They have been paraded here with great force by gentlemen on the other side. It is first objected that it is unchristian in its nature; that it is contrary to the spirit of the Bible and the teachings of christianity. It is said that there is no justifying precedent for it in Holy Writ; that the teaching of God's holy book are entirely against it. Now, I am not going to argue the Bible view of the question here, for I have no idea whatever that the people of the State of Maryland have suddenly been seized with a fit of conscientious remorse upon this subject, and are now desirous of clearing their skirts of this "sum of all villainies," as it has been called. I do not believe a word of that; and without intending any personal reflection, I do not believe that gentlemen upon the other side believe it. I cannot believe that those gentlemen believe that the people of the State of Maryland have undergone a radical change of sentiment as regards the morality and propriety and christianity of slaveholding.

When our Convention assembled in 1850,